

Billington proposed to UNESCO formation of a World Digital Library to gather an online collection of significant primary materials from cultures around the world which was officially launched in seven languages in Paris last month with the Library, UNESCO, and more than 30 partner institutions around the world.

Dr. Billington has been a prodigious private fundraiser for the Library's programs. In 1990 he formed the Madison Council whose members have raised nearly \$400 million for the Library which has been well used to support scholarly studies such as the Kluge Center and some 300 stimulating and popular exhibitions such as the Vatican Library, American Treasures, Lewis and Clark, and the recent Lincoln Bicentennial. A major accomplishment was the creation of the Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation achieved through a public/private partnership with the Packard Humanities Institute for archiving and preservation of the Library's massive collection of audio visual material.

Jim Billington has presided over an increase of more than 50 million items in the Library's collections which now total nearly 140 million. He has also ensured that the Library's valuable multiple format collections are preserved for future generations and enhanced the security of staff, researchers, and visitors.

It was Dr. Billington's far sighted initiative in 1999 to bring young leaders to the United States from Russia to learn practical skills through exposure to America's democratic government and free market system. Since then through the Open World Program more than 14,000 current and future leaders from Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania and Uzbekistan have experienced our democracy and community life gaining new ideas for implementing change in their countries and fostering cooperation with the United States.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments that Jim Billington has made both to the Library of Congress and the Nation. His energy, enthusiasm and vision for a knowledge based democracy and the life of the mind are commendable and he is still going strong at 80. We wish him a happy birthday.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I offer my best wishes to the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, who just celebrated his 80th birthday.

Dr. Billington became the Librarian of Congress in 1987 after being nominated by President Reagan and confirmed by the Senate. If you read his confirmation testimony closely you can see the seeds for the direction he wanted to take the Library of Congress. It was Dr. Billington's vision for what the Library of Congress could be for current and future generations and his effective management that steered that great institution into the digital age. Because of his leadership, the Library today collects a diversity of ma-

terial in both conventional and digital formats. Dr. Billington refers to this as "adding without subtracting," and it is now a model for archival institutions. But simply collecting and preserving this material is not enough. It was his insistence, through programs such as the National Digital Library and World Digital Library, that this goldmine of information be shared much more widely with researchers, educators, and the general public both here on Capitol Hill and online via the Library's renowned Web site that makes it so useful.

I know how much Jim Billington reveres the Library's role of service to Congress and the American people. He works tirelessly to attract Members to visit the Library. It has been my pleasure to co-host with him several dinners in recent years for my colleagues which gave them a clearance to see some of the incomparable Library of Congress exhibits, such as Creating the U.S., Jefferson's Library, and Winston Churchill, in the magnificent surroundings of the Jefferson Building.

Formation of the Madison Council, the Library's first ever philanthropic and advisory body, was Dr. Billington's idea which he carried out with great energy and success. The Madison Council has been invaluable in bringing priceless collections to the Library and augmenting appropriated funding.

Finally, I applaud Dr. Billington for instituting and cosponsoring with First Lady Laura Bush the National Book Festival since 2001, in which I have had the good fortune of participating as an author. The National Book Festival, modeled on the Texas Book Festival initiated in the 1990s by Laura Bush, has been a very popular annual event in Washington and has done much to promote reading and the creativity of America's writers.

Jim Billington is truly a national treasure. He is a man of great intellect and leadership. I want to thank him for all he has done at the Library of Congress and throughout his long career of public service. I am happy to call him my friend, and I wish him all the best on his 80th birthday.

I yield the floor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING FRANCES NAM

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, today I want to speak about an extraordinary young woman who has left us far too soon. On May 15, my former staff member Frances Nam died after a 3-year battle with lung cancer. Fran was just 39 years old. She left behind two beautiful daughters—Seanna, age 11, and Henna, age 9.

In the mid to late 1990s, Fran was my legislative assistant on all matters related to appropriations, immigration, housing, judicial appointments, and matters under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. She was a stand-

out staff member in every way: always enthusiastic and diligent about her work, always caring about her colleagues, and an exemplary public servant who cared deeply about our constituents.

In January 1999, Frances went to work for U.S. Department of Justice's Community Relations Service, CRS, DOJ's race relations mediation arm. This job brought out another side of Fran: the compassionate but cool-headed mediator, a master of human relations. CRS sent Frances all over the country, wherever ethnic communities were at odds with one another, to prevent or soothe civil strife and bring disparate people together despite their differences. Originally a political appointee in the Clinton administration, Fran stayed at CRS until 2003 as a senior policy adviser.

Frances then went to work as senior policy adviser to the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald. Along with her primary legislative and policy duties, Fran was the Congresswoman's liaison to the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC. In this role she became the first non-African American to organize a CBC annual legislative conference, and she is still remembered fondly by CBC members and staff for her charm, efficiency, and diplomatic skills.

Since late 2003, Frances has worked as vice president of Government Affairs for Sodexo USA, a major food service company. Here, in addition to working with Congress as well as State and local governments, Fran was known for her extraordinary efforts to open new educational and career opportunities for Asian Americans and other people of color.

Outside her working life, Fran was a vivacious young woman who enjoyed a wide circle of friends and her two loving daughters. A woman who truly loved her work and life, she was recently the subject of an article in Working Woman magazine on successful working mothers.

In her all-too-brief life, Frances Nam made a deep and lasting difference in the lives of many people—here in the Senate, in communities across the country, and in her own close community of family, friends, and colleagues. She will be deeply and truly missed.●

TRIBUTE TO HARRY M. HALLMAN, JR.

• Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, today I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Mayor Harry M. Hallman, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement as mayor of Mount Pleasant, SC. Mayor Hallman is a dedicated public servant and his work has earned our gratitude and appreciation.

It was with much personal and professional sadness that he recently announced he would have to relinquish his position as the mayor of one of South Carolina's largest municipalities as he continues his personal battle with Alzheimer's.